

22. *Sorex? soccatus*, mihi.—Size and proportions of the last nearly, but distinguished by its feet being clad in fur down to the nails, and by its depressed head and tumid bulging cheeks (mystaceal region). Ears large and exposed as in the first two species (*murinus* and *pygmaeus*), and like them having a rounded tapering tail, but somewhat longer in proportion than theirs. Colour a uniform sordid or brownish slaty blue, extending to the clad extremities. Size nearly of the last. Snout to rump  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; tail  $2\frac{1}{8}$ ; head  $1\frac{7}{16}$ ; palma  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; planta  $\frac{1}{16}$ ; weight  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz.

This animal was caught in a wood plentifully watered, but not near the water. I never saw nor heard of it as a tenant of houses, any more than the last-named. It had no musky smell when brought to me dead. I did not examine its glands.

P.S.—The above paper completes the notices of Nepalese Mammals published in India, and, like the papers written there, has been composed without the aid of library or museum.

XL.—*Contributions to the Fauna of Ireland.* By FREDERICK M'COY, Esq., M.G.S.D.

[With a Plate.]

NOTICES of some of the following animals were read to the Natural-History Society of Dublin at the June meeting for 1844. The Invertebrata are a portion of a large series collected by Mr. McCalla on the west coast of Ireland, and placed in my hands for examination and description by my valued friend Dr. Scouler, whose kindness I have before had to acknowledge for the liberal manner in which he has always allowed me to examine and describe any specimens of interest either in the museum of the Royal Dublin Society or in his own private collection.

MAMMALIA.

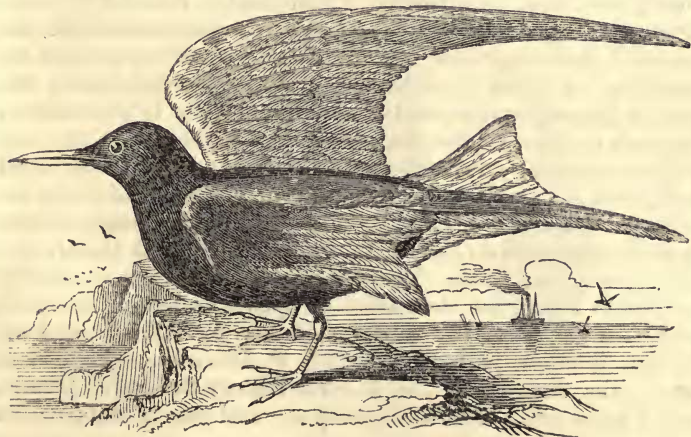
*Vespertilio Nattereri* (Kuhl).—The singularly small number of bats found in Ireland only amounting at present to three, of which one (*V. Daubentonii*) has occurred but in a single instance, renders any addition to their number of peculiar interest to the Irish naturalist, or to those who take an interest in comparing the fauna of Ireland with that of England. The present species, the reddish gray bat of British authors, has not I believe been hitherto recorded in Ireland; a specimen however was brought to me last summer by G. Mangan, Esq., and is now in the museum of the Natural-History Society of Dublin; he killed it near that city, and was of opinion that it was the common species in his neighbourhood: whether the pipistrelle (the most common Irish bat) might have been confounded with it on the wing, or whether it

is really a common species, I cannot say; I can only state the occurrence of the species, and so add it to the list of Irish animals.

#### AVES.

*Tringa rufescens*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper.—A specimen of this rare bird, shot by J. Hill, Esq. near the Pigeon House, Dublin, is preserved in the Museum of the Natural-History Society of Dublin. The specimen is in the same plumage as those described by Mr. Yarrell; the markings on the under side of the wings are very beautiful. The specimen noticed is the only Irish one I am aware of.

*Sterna leucoptera* (Temm.).—A specimen of this beautiful tern was shot by J. Hill, Esq. on the Shannon in 1841, in company with the black tern (*S. nigra*), with which it was confounded; the specimen was sent along with one of the latter species to the Natural-History Society of Dublin, in whose museum they are now preserved; but from their general resemblance to each other, the present species has remained there undistinguished till the present time. As I believe this to be the first record of the occurrence of this bird in Britain, I subjoin a short description of the specimen and a sketch half the natural size, to assist in drawing the



attention of British naturalists to it, as it will probably be found not unfrequent. *Measurement*—Total length, to extremity of tail, about 8 inches; bill from base  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lines, from rictus 1 inch 5 lines; greatest depth of both mandibles  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines; middle toe, including the claw, 11 lines in length; tarsus 8 lines; naked portion of the tibia 4 lines. *Colours*—Legs and feet in the preserved specimen pale yellow, probably red in the living bird, claws darker; bill dark blackish brown; head, neck, breast, abdomen,

under wing-coverts and back deep glossy black ; small wing-coverts, tail, and upper and under tail-coverts pure white ; first three quill-feathers black, with a broad longitudinal band of white on their inner webs ; remainder of the wings ash-gray, becoming darker towards the body.

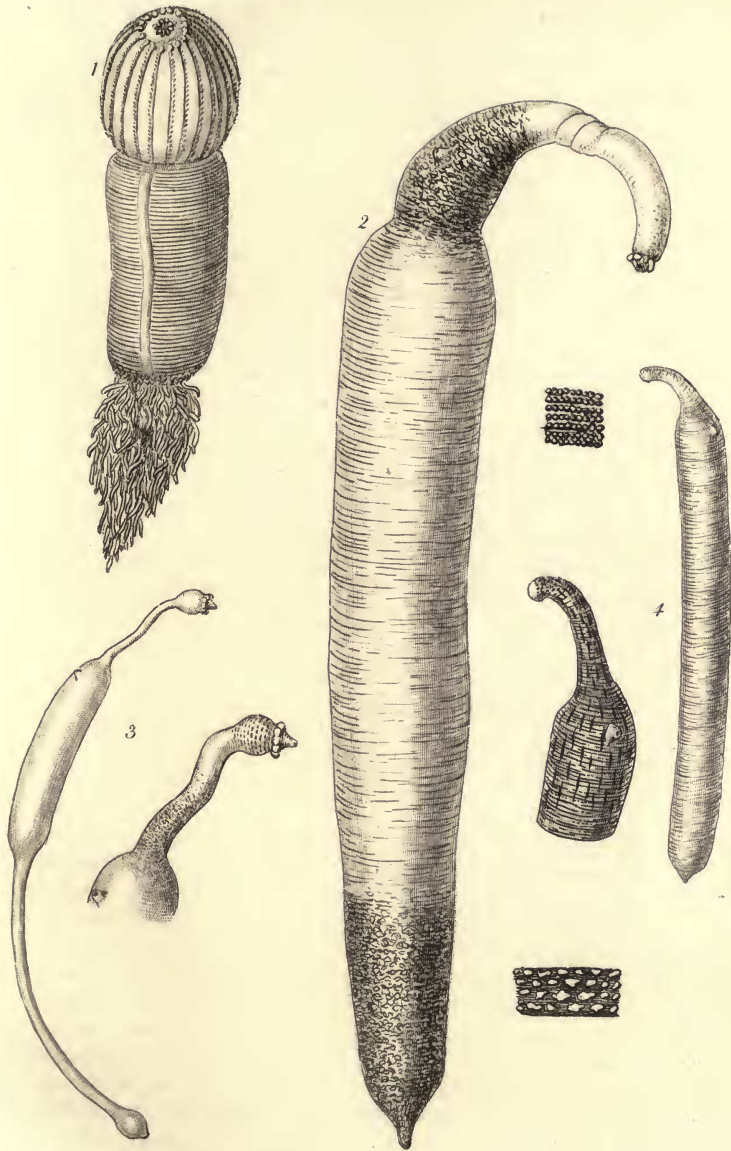
The form, proportions and size of this species are very nearly those of the black tern (*S. nigra*) ; like that species too the webs of the toes are very deeply indented, being reduced to a mere rudiment between the middle and inner toes. The two species are however easily distinguished,—the under wing-coverts of the *S. nigra* are white, of the *S. leucoptera* black ; the tail of the former is dark gray, of the latter pure white ; in the *S. nigra* the throat is white, breast and abdomen dark gray, and the back lead-colour, while in the *S. leucoptera* all those parts are black. I speak of both species in their perfect plumage.

#### ECHINODERMATA.

*Priapulus* — ? Pl. XVI. fig. 1.—A species of *Priapulus* is very common in the sand at low water mark in Connemara, and occasionally found on the east coast : as it does not agree with the figures of Müller or Prof. E. Forbes of the *P. caudatus*, nor agree exactly with their descriptions, I have made a drawing of a moderate-sized specimen for comparison. In a great number of specimens I have examined, the characters seemed to present no variation ; in all of them the trunk is transversely striated, the general proportions thicker and more robust than in *P. caudatus* ; the body uniformly cylindrical, not dilated at the extremities ; the posterior extremity, instead of being dilated and open, is narrowed and closed ; there is no longitudinal striation in any of the specimens at either end of the body ; the posterior extremity is irregularly tuberculated ; the caudal appendage is much thicker and more bushy than in the *P. caudatus*. As I have not seen living specimens I have left the species an open question ; if it should prove distinct from the species described by Müller and Prof. Forbes, it might perhaps be called *P. hibernicus*. Specimens are in the museum of the Natural-History Society of Dublin, and a large series of them, of every age and size, in the museum of the Royal Dublin Society.

*Syrinx granulatus* (McCoy), Pl. XVI. fig. 2.—*Sp. Ch.* Body nearly smooth, very minutely and uniformly granulated, and obsoletely striated transversely ; basal half of the proboscis and the posterior extremity of the body roughened by deep concentric rugæ and small crowded tubercles ; proboscis from the anal pore to the mouth one-fourth the length of the body, posterior extremity mucronate.

This fine species is intermediate in character between the *S. pa-*



1 *Priapulus*. 2, 3, 4, *Syrinx*.

